

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended) A coated stainless steel strip product with a dense and evenly distributed layer on one side or both sides of said strip ~~characterized in that wherein~~ said layer consists of essentially of one or several of the metals gold, copper, nickel, molybdenum, cobalt, silver, tin or tungsten, ~~that the wherein a~~ thickness of said layer is preferably maximally 15 μm , wherein a that the tolerance of said layer is maximally +/- 30% of the layer thickness, ~~that the wherein a~~ Cr content of the steel strip substrate is at least 10%, and ~~that wherein~~ the layer has ~~such a good an~~ adhesion to the strip that the coated steel strip, under uniaxial stretching can be uniaxially stretched to fracture by tensile testing, does not show without showing any tendency to peeling, flaking or the like peeling or flaking.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended) Product according to claim 1 ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the thickness of the strip substrate is between 0,015 0.015 mm and 3,0 3.0 mm.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended) Product according to claim 1 or 2 1, ~~characterized in that it is made of wherein said strip includes~~ a substrate of austenitic stainless steel, or duplex stainless steel, or hardenable martensitic chromium steel, or precipitation hardenable stainless steel, or maraging steel with a minimum tensile strength of 1000 MPa in the cold rolled or heat treated condition.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended) Product according to any of preceding claims,
characterized in that claim 1, wherein the layer has a multi-layer constitution of up to 10 layers.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended) Product according to claim 4 characterized in that
wherein each individual layer has a thickness of between 0,05 0,05 to 15 μm .

Claim 6 (Currently Amended) Product according to claim 4 characterized in that
wherein each individual layer has a thickness of between 0,05 0,05 to 11 μm .

Claim 7 (Currently Amended) Product according to claim 4 characterized in that
wherein each individual layer has a thickness of between 0,05 0,05 to 5 μm .

Claim 8 (Currently Amended) Product according to claim 5, characterized in that
wherein the layer has a multi-layer constitution of individual layers of different metallic ~~coatings~~,
such as ~~Ag, Ni, Mo, Co, Au, Mo, W, and/or Sn~~ coatings.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended) Product according to claim 8, characterized in that
wherein the layer ~~may consist~~ consists of alloys of at least 2 the elements according to claim 1
selected from the group consisting of gold, copper, nickel, molybdenum, cobalt, silver, tin and
tungsten.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended) A product according to ~~any of the claims 1-9,~~
~~characterized in that it claim 1, wherein the product~~ is suitable for use in load carrying
applications where a low contact resistance at the surface is advantageous.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended) A product according to ~~any of the claims 1-9,~~
~~characterized in that it claim 1, wherein the product~~ is suitable for the production and use of
spring elements ~~is in~~ switches, connectors, ~~or~~ metallic ~~domes etc domes~~.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended) Method of manufacturing a coated stainless steel
strip product according to ~~any of the preceding claims,~~ characterized in that said product is
~~produced claim 1, comprising producing the coated stainless steel strip product in a continuous~~
roll-to-roll process included in a strip production line using electron beam evaporation
comprising an etch chamber in-line.

Claim 13 (New) Product according to claim 8, wherein the different metallic
coatings are selected from the group consisting of Ag, Ni, Mo, Co, Au, Mo, W and Sn.